PRESS RELEASE

CISLAC calls for peaceful dialogue among NASS members

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has critically observed with keen interest, the ongoing political development in the National Assembly, where struggles for leadership positions are fast becoming a priority over the nation’s democracy.

Although we understand as a global phenomenon, the aspiration of leading political party for leadership positions in the legislature, which featured in Nigeria’s political history in the 16 years prior to the emergence of All Progressive Congress (APC) as the leading party in the country. However, the ongoing development in the National Assembly could be traced to inability and weak internal control system by the leadership of APC to inculcate discipline in its members.

We believe that the most recent development leading to the emergence of new leaderships in the Assembly would serve as a lesson to future ruling party to prioritise adequate internal control and inculcate discipline in its members. We demand that such development should be accepted in the interest of nation’s democracy.

We strongly demand that the ongoing struggles for elective and appointive leadership positions in the National Assembly be conducted within the legislative Code of Conduct to promote value of excellence, professionalism in the legislators’ performance; and ensure civility and responsible conduct inside and outside of the Assembly commensurate with the trust placed in legislators by the electorate.

We call on the elected members to reach out to the aggrieved legislators and maintain peace with their party to avert conflict between private interests and official duties and uphold effective functionality of the Presidency in the best interest of the nation.

We charge the elected and appointed principal officers in the Assembly on constructive dialogue and reconciliation with the aggrieved and their politica party opposition members, and collaboratively exercise their fundamental mandates—lawmaking, oversight and representation, in the interest of peace, harmony and democracy of the country.

CISLAC would be happy to continue to provide support to the members of National Assembly to enhance efficiency in the conduct of the core legislative duties—lawmaking, oversight, representation and constituency outreach.